

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

**[0031]** Devices and methods for harvesting segments of tissue from a patient are disclosed. According to a preferred embodiment, the device comprises elongate upper and lower housing portions defining proximal and distal ends, and a recess therebetween, the latter being operative to capture a segment of tissue therewithin. Formed on the distal most end of the device is a cutting element, which may preferably be formed from upper and lower cutting blades operative to slice or shear a layer of tissue from a tissue mass as the same are advanced therethrough. The device may be configured to harvest tissue of any of a variety of sizes and thicknesses, and may be provided with an enhanced cutting instrument to selectively control the ability of the device to slice or shear off a segment of tissue having a desired length or width.